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Commissioner for Patents

REMARKS

The above-noted amendments are presented in response to the Office Action of April 20, 2004, wherefore reconsideration is requested.

Referring now to the text of the Office Action:

- a) claims 1-32, 35, 36 and 38-38-66 are allowed;
- b) claims 67 and 68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being unpatentable over the teaching of United States Patent No. 5,512,860 (Huscroft et al.); and
- c) claims 69-78 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As an initial matter, applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowance of claims 1-32, 35, 36 and 38-38-66 and allowable subject matter in claims 69-78. It is believed that the Examiner's objections to claims 67 and 68 are overcome by the above-noted claim amendments. In particular, claim 67 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 69, and thus is believed to clearly define over the prior art.

In light of the foregoing, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

If any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due

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under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-5113.

Respectfully submitted,

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